

Work, was an counselor/caseworker at the Bexar County Mental Health and Mental Retardation from 1971–1974 and 1978–1980. The result of this training is that Congressman RODRIGUEZ recognized that social workers play an invaluable role within our Nation's social service infrastructure. In 2004, he reintroduced H.R. 3887, the National Center for Social Work Research Act, which would establish a research center within the National Institutes of Health. Congressman RODRIGUEZ has continued working to encourage NIH to better integrate social work research into their mission. In 2002, he helped secure language in a congressional appropriations bill directing NIH to develop a social work research plan.

CIRO has held a long and distinguished career receiving numerous awards such as the National Hispanic Medical Association's Leadership Award given earlier this year by the National Hispanic Medical Association for his leadership and his initiative on Hispanic health disparities. He earned the 2003–2002 Community Health Super Hero Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. and Health Centers from the State of Texas recognizes the Congressman's strong and consistent support for health centers and the patients they serve in communities across the country throughout the Second Session of the 107th Congress.

I along with the other members of the Texas Congressional Delegation have been honored to serve alongside CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ. Although we will miss his friendship and leadership, I am sure that as he looks back upon his illustrious career of civil service, he will be proud to have served the constituents of 28th Congressional District of Texas.

It has been such a privilege to serve with Congressman MAX SANDLIN. As one of the most compassionate Members of Congress, he was recently appointed to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, the most powerful and esteemed committee in the House.

Congressman MAX SANDLIN and I were members of the Democratic Children and Health Task Forces. Both he and I worked hard to champion legislation that protected working families with children. I have always admired him for his strategic use of his position to gain consensus among his colleagues, identify important issues, and formulate policy.

As a Member from an urban district in Texas, I could always count on Congressman MAX SANDLIN to add the voice of rural America and fiscal responsibility to the leadership of the Democratic Party.

As we faced the harsh injustices of redistricting, Congressman SANDLIN stood strong, redoubled his efforts to maintain what he believes in, and did not back down. Even though he was not able to emerge victorious in this cycle, I am confident that a man of his caliber will return to public service.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving with Congressman JIM TURNER in the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. I always felt confident that as the ranking member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, JIM was working to protect the safety and security of the American people in the war on terrorism. He lead the Democratic charge for the ushering in of several pieces of important legislation that will help this nation fight back against global terrorism and keep our families safe.

Congressman TURNER retired after four terms in Congress, a decision that I know as

difficult. Unfortunately, we are not able to control all the events in our life, and Congressman TURNER did not have a fair or unbiased chance for reelection.

A longtime fiscal conservative, Congressman TURNER was the cochair of the "Blue Dog" Coalition. In addition, his work in Congress focuses on promoting economic development and forestry in east Texas. He continues to work for senior citizens through his sponsorship of legislation to lower prescription drug costs.

I have always enjoyed working with Congressman TURNER, who was able to bridge the partisan divide and make friends on both sides of the aisle. I wish you the best of luck in the future.

I am honored to be here today to speak on behalf of my colleague, CHRIS BELL. Our districts border one another in Houston, so I have been privileged to know and work with CHRIS BELL during his time in Congress. Similar to my own background, CHRIS BELL is a former Houston City Council Member. Congressman BELL has earned a reputation as an independent thinker with a common sense approach to governing. He has built an exceptional public service career around defending the truth, championing the people's issues and maintaining the integrity of public office.

During the Enron debacle that affected thousands of Houstonian's, Congressman BELL and former Democratic Leader DICK GEPHARDT, held a town hall meeting calling for corporate employee retirement security and executive accountability. Additionally, BELL executed a citywide campaign to educate employees on the importance of diversification of assets. Congressman CHRIS BELL is an outstanding example of what it means to stand up for truth, something that I will always admire in him. He has taken a stand against unethical actions in this body and the public owes him a debt of gratitude for that. Congressman BELL, I applaud you for your groundbreaking courage.

Congressman BELL's leadership qualities have been noticed by many, particularly by Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, who appointed him as a "Senior Whip." There is a large void to fill with Congressman BELL's departure.

In closing, I would like to quote Booker T. Washington, who said, "Character, not circumstances, makes the man."

Gentlemen, again, thank you very much for your service, leadership, and friendship. Please know that I will always be happy to "yield back the remainder of my time to you if you ever need me." The best of luck to you and your respective families in your future lives.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit written statements on the subject matter of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings on H. Res. 853 and H.R. 5382 will resume tomorrow.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0018

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON) at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4818) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

[The conference report will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.]

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 7:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a prior family commitment.

Mr. ROTHMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family obligation.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUMMINGS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ORTIZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REYES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GONZALEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.